

Mt. Empire Beekeeper's Association  
May 27, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

**Meeting called to order** by Bernie at 7:00 pm in Smyth Hall, Rm 122, Wytheville Community College.

Bernie quoted the following statistic from bee Culture Magazine: commercial beekeepers make up only 1% of the total beekeepers in the US but own 75% of the total hives.

**Treasurer's Report:**

-Janice reports that we currently have \$3,709.85. We now have a total of 131 paid members.

-Family Picnic will be held on July 24 at the pavilion of the church located at the intersection of Rt. 11 and Petunia Rd. The picnic will be pot luck with the club furnishing meat and drinks. Thought is being given to having a silent auction at the picnic as a fund raiser.

**Secretary's Report:** Sharon presented the minutes from the last meeting. She has subscription forms for Bee Culture and American Bee Journal.

**Report on Spring Workshop:** Cathy reports that we had 89 people attending the Spring Workshop. She thanked all of those who instructed and helped with the workshop.

Proceeds from the workshop included:

\$140.00 dues collected

\$45.00 donated for lunches

\$515.00 collected from raffle of extractor (Norman Meyers was the winner!)

Four new members signed up that day. There was very positive feedback from attendees. The club extends sincere thanks to Jeanette and Eural Clippard for the use of their apiary and farmhouse for the Spring Workshop.

**The Bees:**

-**SWARMS:** Bernie states that we still have 2 – 3 weeks of prime swarming time and we can even have some swarms in July and August. There can be a secondary swarm 3 – 4 days after the initial swarm. About 25% of the time, the new queen doesn't make it back to the hive from her mating flight. Watch for "swarm cells" (queen cells that appear on the lower half of a frame); and supersedure cells (queen cells that appear on the upper part of a frame). If a hive is getting ready to swarm, it usually can be prevented by removing the queen.

-Supersedure typically happens when the hive determines that something is wrong with the queen. "Absconding" is different from swarming.... The bees just don't like where they are and they all leave the hive. Absconding is a big problem when using packaged bees.

- Remember the 70% rule – when 7 out of 10 frames are drawn, it is time to add a super. Bernie says that anything you do in June (swarms, splits, etc) will be fine as there is still time to get them ready for winter.

-“Checkerboarding” – remove frames that are full and replace with either drawn or non-drawn comb.

**TIC Grant Status:** Bernie reminds members that we have 90 days after approval to submit receipts. It will likely take about 2 months to be reimbursed.

Drawing was held for door prizes.

Next Meeting will be June 24, 2010

Meeting Adjourned

Refreshments and socializing